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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pailler (3946706). There is a shaft 18, cam 16, journal 19, and housing 21.

The original indication of allowable subject matter is withdrawn in view of a new consideration of the art. The examiner too narrowly construed the second axis as being the axis located at the center of the connecting rod 12. However, the claims merely call for the housing being reciprocal along a second axis, but not specifying its location. Therefore, arbitrarily defining the second axis as being parallel, but offset from that defined by the center of the connecting rod will meet the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pailler. The claim merely sets forth a steering system as comprising the apparatus for converting. Therefore, in the broadest sense, one of ordinary skill in the art could use the engine of Pailler to power the steering system and meet the limitation. See the above comments

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regarding the offset axis. Regarding claim 20, the recitation of a steering system in the preamble is deemed merely one of desired use insofar as the body of the claim fails to recite any steering structure, but rather discloses an engine.

Claims 9, 12-14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masayoshi et al (JP 4317461) in view of Kenji (JP 59203801). Kenji discloses a mechanism for use in an internal combustion engine including a double eccentric comprising of a shaft 1, and eccentric shaft 2, an eccentric ring 4, and a circular ring 5. However, the fixed axis of rotation is aligned with the center axis of reciprocation. Kenji shows in figures 4 and 5 show all of the recited elements including an offset center axis of reciprocation from the fixed axis of rotation whereby force of self starting of the rotor is reduced. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use an offset center axis of reciprocation from the fixed axis of rotation in Masayoshi et al as taught by Kenji to reduce the force of self starting.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Noah Kamen/ whose telephone number is 571 272 4845. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Cronin can be reached on 571 272 4536. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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